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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : Confirmation No.  
Applicant : Badreddine Bergaya et al.  
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Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the initial office action in the above newly filed patent application, please amend said application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** are reflected in the attached substitute specification with markings and the clean version.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 6 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.